IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please rewrite the abstract paragraph beginning at page 32, line 2 as follows:

B1

An absorbent garment includes a chassis and an absorbent element. The absorbent element is fixedly connected to the chassis at a first location and is detachably connected to at least one of the absorbent element and the chassis at a second location. The absorbent element includes an absorbent material that expands from at least a first condition to a second condition. The absorbent element detaches from at least one the absorbent element or the chassis at at least a portion of the second location when the absorbent material expands to the second condition. A method for using the absorbent garment also is provided, together with a method for assembling the absorbent garment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 15 as follows:

B2

FIGURE 1 is a partial plan view of an absorbent element taken from the bodyside thereof.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 16 as follows:

B3

FIGURE 18 is a bodyside plan view of an absorbent garment, with a portion of one body panel being cut away.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page ~~13~~ 12, line ~~21~~ 29 as follows:

B4

In yet another alternative embodiment, shown in FIGS. 13, 14, 16, 17, 19 and 20, the absorbent material, or retention portion, comprises a fourth and fifth fold **356,**

358 extending laterally outward or outboard from an inner edge 60, 62 of the second and third folds 52, 54 respectively, in an overlying relationship therewith. In this embodiment, a barrier layer, or cover sheet, is interfolded with the absorbent material. In particular, the barrier layer comprises opposite folds 346 extending laterally outward or outboard from an inner edge of the folds 46 respectively, in an overlying relationship therewith so as to form a folding edge or pleat 342. The opposing faces of the folds 346, 46 are preferably in contact as they lie between or are nested in the folds 356, 52 and 358, 54 of the absorbent material. Preferably, an outboard edge 347 of the barrier layer folds 346 extends laterally outboard beyond an outboard edge 357 of the absorbent material on each side of the garment, such that the barrier layer can be attached to one or more of the topsheet or body panels.

B4

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 6 as follows:

In each of the embodiments of FIGS. 1-6 and 8, the absorbent element 40 is preferably attached to the outer, garment side surface 12 of the chassis 4, with the upper folds 52, 54 facing the opening 16 formed in the chassis. Preferably, the inboard edges 60, 62 of the folds 52, 54 are spaced apart to provide an opening 64 therebetween so as to allow the liquid to be received by the lower fold 48 and migrate into the areas between the folds. In the embodiments of FIGS. 1-6, each of the peripheral inboard edges 66, 68 of the cover sheet is preferably fixedly attached to the chassis 4 along a longitudinally extending location 70 adjacent an edge of the chassis that forms the opening 16 therein. In the embodiment of FIG. 8, the topsheet 430 is fixedly attached to the body chassis with primary bonds 790 along a location 770, such that the absorbent composite is disposed over the opening 16, and the retention portion is secured to the topsheet with both primary and secondary bonds. It should be understood that the term "location" means any point, line, or region, which region defines an area, or any combination thereof, including a plurality of such points, lines and regions. It should further be understood that the term "fixedly" means an

B5

attachment that is not intended to be removed or disengaged during the normal use and operation of the absorbent garment, and in particular, in response to the expansion of the absorbent element away from the user's body.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 13 as follows:

Further primary bond regions 72, 74 are preferably formed between end portions 76 of the cover sheet 42 and the chassis, on opposite ends of the opening 16 formed by the chassis. The additional primary bond locations 72, 74, which are formed along the end edge and lateral of the edges backsheet respectively, maintain a firm attachment of the absorbent element 40 to the chassis 4 while at the same time allowing a hinging effect during the expansion of the absorbent material, which is explained below. It should be understood that other primary bonds can be applied in a laterally extending direction, or in other various patterns as desired, including for example various curvilinear, checked and/or grid patterns.

Please rewrite the paragraph beginning at page ~~15~~ 18, line ~~13~~ 29 as follows:

In the alternative embodiments shown in FIGS. 18-20, the absorbent element, and preferably the topsheet that is incorporated into the absorbent element, is secured to the outer, garment side surface of the front and back panels 406, 408 with a primary bond 690 at a first location 670. Alternatively, the topsheet can be considered to be part of the body chassis, as it extends between the body panels, with the retention portion and barrier layer both secured to the topsheet with a primary bond at a first location as explained above. As shown in FIG. 19, the absorbent element can include an extensible outer cover 434, which is secured to the barrier layer as described above. Alternatively, as shown in FIG. 20, the outer cover is omitted. Alternatively, an extensible outer cover is preferably continuous and is disposed over the entire garment, wherein it is secured to the front and back panels